



25th
esprit anniversary season
orchestra
alex pauk musicdirectorandconductor

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Alex Pauk • CONDUCTOR

Jane Mallett Theatre,
St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

**Esprit Orchestra - Sunday March 2nd, 2008
Alex Pauk - Music Director & Conductor**

Flute

Christine Little
Ardagh
(flute/piccolo/alto)
Anne Thompson
(flute/piccolo)

Oboe

Lesley Young
Karen Rotenberg
(Oboe/English Horn)

Clarinet

Max Christie
Richard Thomson
(clarinet/bass clarinet)

Bassoon

Jerry Robinson
William Cannaway
(contra bassoon)

Horn

Gary Pattison
Vincent Barbee

Trumpet

Stuart Laughton
Anita McAlister

Percussion

Ryan Scott
Trevor Tureski

Violin 1

Fujiko Imajishi
(Concertmaster)
Corey Gemmell
Anne Armstrong
Parmela Attariwala
Sandra Baron
Mia King Solomon

Violin 2

Floortje Gerritsen
Hiroko Kagawa
Ron Mah
Michael Sproule
Louise Pauls
Michele Fox

Viola

Nicolo Eugelmi
Rhyll Peel
Kathy Rapoport
Gregory Campbell

Cello

Paul Widner
Elaine Thompson
Marianne Pack
Olga Laktionova

Bass

Tom Hazlitt
Peter Pavlovsky



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Alex Pauk, Music Director & Conductor

Sunday March 2nd, 2008

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

8:00 pm - CONCERT

7:15 pm - pre-concert composers talk*

PROGRAMME

Zipangu (1980)

Claude Vivier

A-Fair (2007)

Douglas Schmidt

(World Premiere)

Sky Rocket
Hairy Parrot
Wild Mouse
Jimmie's Lunch
Tilt-a-whirl
Helevator

INTERMISSION

Of Memory and Desire (1994)

Harry Somers

Tableaux (2003)

Philip Cashian

(Canadian Premiere)



Tonight's concert is being recorded for future broadcast on CBC Radio 2. Enjoy the concert again on The Signal, heard evenings from 10pm - 1am, with hosts Laurie Brown & Pat Carrabré; & on Sunday Afternoon In Concert, heard each Sunday afternoon from 1 - 5pm, with host Bill Richardson. CBC Radio 2 is at 94.1 FM in Toronto.

Broadcasting on The Signal on Thursday March 20 are the following performances from the Esprit November 25th concert: Alfred Schnittke's *Concerto for Piano and String Orchestra* and Chris Paul Harman's *14 Chorale Melodies*.

Esprit Orchestra NEW WAVE FESTIVAL 2008

Introducing CREATIVE SPARKS

Through Creative Sparks, full of verve, Esprit strengthens its role as Canada's leader in new music mentoring and creative leadership for young people.

Sunday May 4, 2008 New Wave Concert 1

Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front St. E.

7:15 pm Pre-concert composers talk

8:00 pm Concert

Alex Pauk conductor

Wallace Halladay saxophone(s)

Programme:

Vincent Ho (Canada) *Fallen Angel

Wolf Edwards (Canada) *New Work

Maxime McKinley (Canada) *New Work

(*Esprit commission/World Premiere)

Scott Good (Canada) Babbitt for saxophone(s) and orchestra
(originally commissioned by Esprit)

Wednesday May 7, 2008 Creative Sparks New Wave Concert 2

MaRS Centre, 101 College St. (at University)

8:00 pm

Alex Pauk conductor

Stuart Laughton trumpet

Student composers and performers from Toronto-area schools being inspired by professional composers and performers through Esprit's Creative Sparks - a mentoring and creative leadership pilot programme - our strongest-ever link to new generations of composers, performers and audiences.

The MaRS (Medical and Related Sciences) Centre is a full community partner in Creative Sparks which aligns itself with the MaRS philosophy of a "convergence" of diverse disciplines. Esprit will utilize the exceptional MaRS Atrium with its catwalks, bridges suspended across the Atrium, intimate separate spaces, escalators and "pit" (lower floor) to create a sonic orchestral space for the audience top move through according to what's happening at different times during the evening.

Programme:

Selected student composers Creative Sparks pieces (World Premieres)

Charles Ives (U.S.A.) The Unanswered Question

R. Murray Schafer (Canada) Threnody

Philip Cashian (England) Mechanik for as many instrumentalists as possible

7:15 pm Pre-concert composers talk
8:00 pm Concert
10:15 pm Post-concert Bash location TBA

Alex Pauk conductor
Ryan Scott - percussion

Programme:

Petar Kresimir Klanac (Canada)	*Ritournelle
David Adamcyk (Canada)	*New Work
*Esprit commission/World Premiere	
Brian Current (Canada)	Kazabazua
(originally commissioned by Esprit)	
Maki Ishii (Japan)	Percussion Concerto
(Canadian Premiere)	south-summer-fire

Creative Sparks participating schools - Claude Watson School of the Arts, North Toronto Collegiate, St. Elizabeth Catholic High School, Etobicoke School of the Arts, Rockcliff Middle School. Special thanks to Royal Academy of Music, London, England. MaRS Centre, Toronto.

Creative Sparks composer/mentors - R. Murray Schafer, Michael Colgrass, Philip Cashian, Scott Good, Alexina Louie, Alex Pauk, Douglas Schmidt.

Details of other concerts taking place during the festival week will be announced in mid-March.



BIOGRAPHIES

ALEX PAUK COMPOSER, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Alex Pauk won the Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Award for 2007 and is the 2007 recipient of the Molson Prize for the Arts administered by The Canada Council for the Arts. Alex Pauk, composer, conductor, educator, entrepreneur, had much to do with revitalizing Canadian orchestral musical life for composers by founding Esprit Orchestra in 1983 as Canada's only orchestra devoted to new music. Esprit, with a core of 50 of Canada's best new music instrumentalists and an annual subscription series in Toronto, encourages composers from across Canada to take bold new directions. Through building and sustaining its high calibre performances, commissioning programme, innovative programming (80% Canadian), recordings, performing arts videos and DVDs, Toward a Living Art Education Programme, In Your Space outreach initiatives, tours and International relations, and interdisciplinary arts and media ventures, Pauk has made Esprit a major force for developing and promoting Canadian music at home and abroad. As a conductor he attains performances of the highest caliber on stage and in recordings. Every Esprit concert since the group's founding has been recorded for broadcast on CBC Radio. His innovative programming and commitment to the community through Esprit have garnered SOCAN and Chalmers Awards as well as three Lieutenant Governor's Awards. He was named Musician of the Year (1999) by peers at the Toronto Musicians' Association and he has helped many composers advance their careers through commissions, high profile performances, recordings and broadcasts. Pauk's recordings of music by Canadian composers Chris Paul Harman and Brian Current helped them win, respectively, prizes in the International Rostrum of Composers (Paris) and Barlow (USA) competitions. Pauk's commissioning, performance and promotion of Canadian music (composers of all ages and stylistic trends) is central to his work with Esprit. His six CBC Records compact discs of Canadian music are an important set in the overall catalogue of CDs in Canada and his work with performing arts filmmaker Larry Weinstein of Rhombus Media, with projects such as Ravel's Brain, have set new standards in the genre. Since 1985, Pauk's Toward a Living Art Programme with Esprit has provided approximately 1,500 students annually with a range of experiences; "sitting in" with Esprit musicians at rehearsals and performances, composing for Esprit, attending special student concerts and workshops, receiving free concert tickets and study guides. Pauk has been a leader in taking new music out of the concert hall and to people in their communities with performances in unusual locations such as the CN Tower and night clubs, and he has provided opportunities for choreographers and dancers, stage and lighting designers, actors and directors and media and visual artists to combine their talents with Esprit in adventurous cross-disciplinary projects. Pauk has lead Esprit on several Canadian tours (including Calgary Winter Olympics Arts Festival 1988, Western Canadian Tour 1998, and Montréal/Nouvelles Musiques Festival 2005) and in 1997 initiated an ongoing exchange and touring project with The Netherlands, a venture which

included Esprit's debut European tour in 1999 and remains vital to this day. Under Pauk's direction Esprit was awarded the 2005 Vida Peene Fund for excellent standards of performance and innovative programming.

Alex Pauk has a very wide range of experience as a composer with works for every kind of performing ensemble (some including electroacoustic sound), the theatre as well as dance companies. Revealing this depth of experience, his most notable compositions of recent years include; Touch Piece, a multimedia work for full orchestra, 16 channel surround sound with electroacoustic sound, sounds of nature and altered orchestral sound projected from loudspeakers, multi-screen video environment (images of nature and the Cosmos) and fabric sculptures with special theatrical lighting; Farewell to Heaven, a full length work for the Menaka Thakkar Indian Dance Company (blending Southeast Asian musical elements with Western orchestral sounds); three works involving important Canadian virtuosos: Concerto for Harp and Orchestra (Erica Goodman harp), Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra (Duo Turgeon pianos) and Flute Quintet (Robert Aitken flute with Cuarteto Latinoamericano). Currently Pauk is composing a work for large ensemble commissioned by La Société de musique contemporaine du Québec.

Pauk graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Music in 1971, attended the Ontario Arts Council's Conductors Workshop, helped found the Arraymusic in Toronto, then moved to Japan for conducting studies at the Toho Gakuen School of Music. In 1973 he settled in Vancouver and established the new music group Days Months and Years to Come. After studies in Europe in 1978/79 he made Toronto his base, founded Esprit Orchestra, served as co-chair for the 1984 ISCM World Music Days and was Music Director and Conductor for the Satori New Music Festival (Winnipeg Symphony). He has conducted opera including R. Murray Schafer's Princess of the Stars performed on Wildcat Lake, Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve and Timothy Sullivan's Dreamplay and Charles Wilson's The Summoning of Everyman for Opera in Concert. In 2004 he was guest conductor for the Ergo Ensemble on their tour to Lithuania. Pauk has composed more than sixty works and has both composed for and conducted CBC Vancouver Orchestra, New Music Concerts, Vancouver New Music, Québec Symphony, Hannaford Street Silver Band and the Toronto Symphony.



CLAUDE VIVIER

COMPOSER (1948 - 1983)

Claude Vivier studied composition with Gilles Tremblay and piano with Irving Heller at the conservatory in Montreal. He subsequently went to Europe to study composition with Karlheinz Stockhausen, and electronic music with Gottfried Michael Koenig and Hans Ulrich Humpert. He obtained several grants from The Canada Council and was named "Composer of the Year" by the Canadian Music Council in 1981.

The two years of study with Stockhausen revealed a musical personality with a predilection for monody and for writing for the voice (solo and choral), but also began to show the importance Vivier was to place on texts and unveiled a style of writing that was to stray progressively farther from the usual contemporary music trends to become more and more personal and transparent. In 1977, Vivier undertook a journey to Asia and the Middle East; the great variety of musical influences he received had the effect, paradoxically, of purifying his own musical expression. Melody gradually occupied a foremost position in his works and his concept of music as being an integral part of daily life continued.



DOUGLAS SCHMIDT
COMPOSER

Douglas Schmidt is a rare breed of composer/performer.

He was composer in residence with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra for 3 years and has taught music at the University of Victoria.

As a performer, he currently plays bandoneon with the Montreal based group Quartango and also has his own group Tango Paradiso in Vancouver. He has performed with the Buffalo, Windsor, Hamilton, CBC, Victoria and Sudbury Symphony orchestras and has played on 5 juno award winning CD's.

Schmidt lives with his wife Emelie, 4 parrots (Sophie, Simbo, Arriba and Barnacle), Arabian mule, Chilli Pepper, Andalucian horse, Cadenza, and Norwegian sheep dog, Yeti, in Aachen, Germany.



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HARRY SOMERS

COMPOSER (1925 - 1999)

Born in Toronto in 1925, Somers began to study music in his early teens. At the age of sixteen, he entered the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto where he studied piano with Reginald Godden, Weldon Kilburn and composition with John Weinzwieg. He received scholarships in 1947 and 1949, and was awarded a Canadian Amateur Hockey Association scholarship through which he studied composition with Darius Milhaud in Paris from 1949-50. At that time, Somers' music was subject to the dual influence of serial music (championed at that time by Weinzwieg) and a more personal past-conscious view of music and the musical repertoire. He once remarked that for him:

...composition evolves from a body of tradition and a series of conventions, be they old or new. Now in the 1950's, I was out of touch with developments that were happening in composition; I had to learn my own way. And my own way was to write works that employed Baroque techniques fused with serialism and the more highly tensioned elements of 20th-century music I was familiar with at the time.

Harry Somers was a founding member of the Canadian League of Composer and in 1971, was named a Companion of the Order of Canada. He received honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa (1975), the University of Toronto (1976) and York University (1977). From the late 1950's, he composed almost exclusively on commissions from a wide variety of North American musical organizations and individuals.

Harry Somers died March 9, 1999. He left Canada and the world of music, an inestimable legacy of some of the most original and dramatically powerful scores of the century. His work embodied Canadian music for the last half century and is truly a major part of Canada's artistic heritage.



PHILIP CASHIAN

COMPOSER

Philip Cashian's many commissioned works include pieces for the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Proms, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (*Io and Nightmaze*), Britten Sinfonia and Skein, Chamber Concerto and Three Pieces for the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

In May 2006 Sarah Nicolls gave the first performance of his Piano Concerto with the London Sinfonietta. Other recent performances include a European tour of Tableaux with Thomas Zehetmair and the Northern Sinfonia and the Chamber Concerto with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Esprit Orchestra in Toronto as well as performances in the Ojai Festival, MusikMonat and a US tour of his String Quartet No.1.

Cashian is currently Head of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England.



ZIPANGU

(1980)

Claude Vivier

Zipangu was commissioned by New Music Concerts in 1980 to be performed by two groups of strings: on the one hand, six violins and on the other, one violin, three violas, two cellos and one double bass.

Vivier wrote: “*Zipangu* was the name given to Japan during the time of Marco Polo. Building around the melody, I explore different aspects of “colour” in this piece. I have tried to veil my harmonic structures by using different bow techniques. A colourful sound is obtained by applying exaggerated bow pressure on the strings as opposed to pure harmonics when returning to normal technique. In this way melody becomes “colour” (chords), grows lighter and slowly returns as though purified and solitary.”

The melody of which Vivier speaks is always present in the work. It is clearly expressed at both the beginning and the end of the piece, but undergoes all sorts of transformations throughout. In one of the most beautiful passages we hear a solo violin playing a very fanciful air against a texture made up entirely of harmonics and in which we recognize the basic harmony and its harmonization. It is a work which towards its end achieves a deeply moving lyricism in a grave and somber passage.



A-FAIR

(2007)

Douglas Schmidt

Sky Rocket

Hairy Parrot

Wild Mouse

Jimmie's Lunch

Tilt-a-whirl

Helevator

A-Fair is inspired by thoughts of going to the Interior Provincial Exhibition fair rides in central B.C. when I was 12 years old. The large machinery for these exciting rides was transported into my home town for a week each autumn.

Like the rides, the pieces in *A-Fair* are short (never long enough), usually intense and slightly nauseating. Titles such as Hairy Parrot, Sky Rocket, Jimmie's Lunch and Hellevator are personal inventions. The music is not programmatic but intends to simply produce an emotional effect similar to the rides (this however, is never completely possible).

This is a virtuoso piece and many instruments of the orchestra are featured as soloists.

Douglas Schmidt



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OF MEMORY AND DESIRE

(1994)

Harry Somers

Of Memory and Desire, was commissioned by C.B.C Ottawa for the 13 Strings, Paul Mars conductor, and was premiered at a concert given by that group at St. Andrews Church, Ottawa, on Friday February 24th 1994.

The title alludes to the famous opening lines of, The Waste Land by T.S. Eliot:

“April is the cruelest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire...”

It came naturally to mind while I was composing the piece in the spring of 1993. That's as far as its relationship to the music goes. It's a poetic title juxtaposed to the music.

My central concern was that of bringing to life the extraordinary sonoral richness of stringed instruments with their infinity of tonal colours, articulations, and expressiveness. Their sounds touch the emotions in ways that cannot be described nor defined, - only experienced.

Composer's note



TABLEAUX

(2003)

Philip Cashian

Tableaux was written in 2003 for the Northern Sinfonia who gave the first performance at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms. The piece lasts about 17 minutes and divides into three panels.

I wanted to write music that had a real sense of forward momentum from the soaring opening melody in the violins through to the pulsing music of the middle panel and the layered counterpoint of the final section.

Philip Cashian





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25th anniversary season **esprit orchestra**

The *Creative Sparks* Mentoring and Creative Leadership Programme is a community-based pilot project involving the composition and performance of new music by public and high school students. The programme will feature activities and concerts taking place in venues throughout the Greater Toronto Area. The plan involves composers of various ages and stylistic leanings, working with students throughout the season to create new works which will be performed by students combined with Esprit players during the 2008 *New Wave Festival*. The project will also involve an array of international guest composers related to the 2008 *New Wave Festival*. This programme will involve young people of all levels of musical accomplishment and will reach many layers in the community from areas with many resources available, to those where increased cultural and social investment is needed.

Participating composers conducting workshops include:

Philip Cashian
Michael Colgrass
Scott Good
Alexina Louie
Alex Pauk
R. Murray Schafer
Douglas Schmidt

Organizations committed to the project include:

Royal Academy of Music London, England
Claude Watson School of the Arts
Etobicoke School of the Arts
North Toronto Collegiate
St. Elizabeth Catholic High School Vaughan
Rockcliff Middle School

Special support for this project has been made available by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Arts Education Partnership Initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture (administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation) and The Canada Council Supplementary Operating Funds Initiative. The project provides “matching funds” opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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